



Wnt Signaling Pathway

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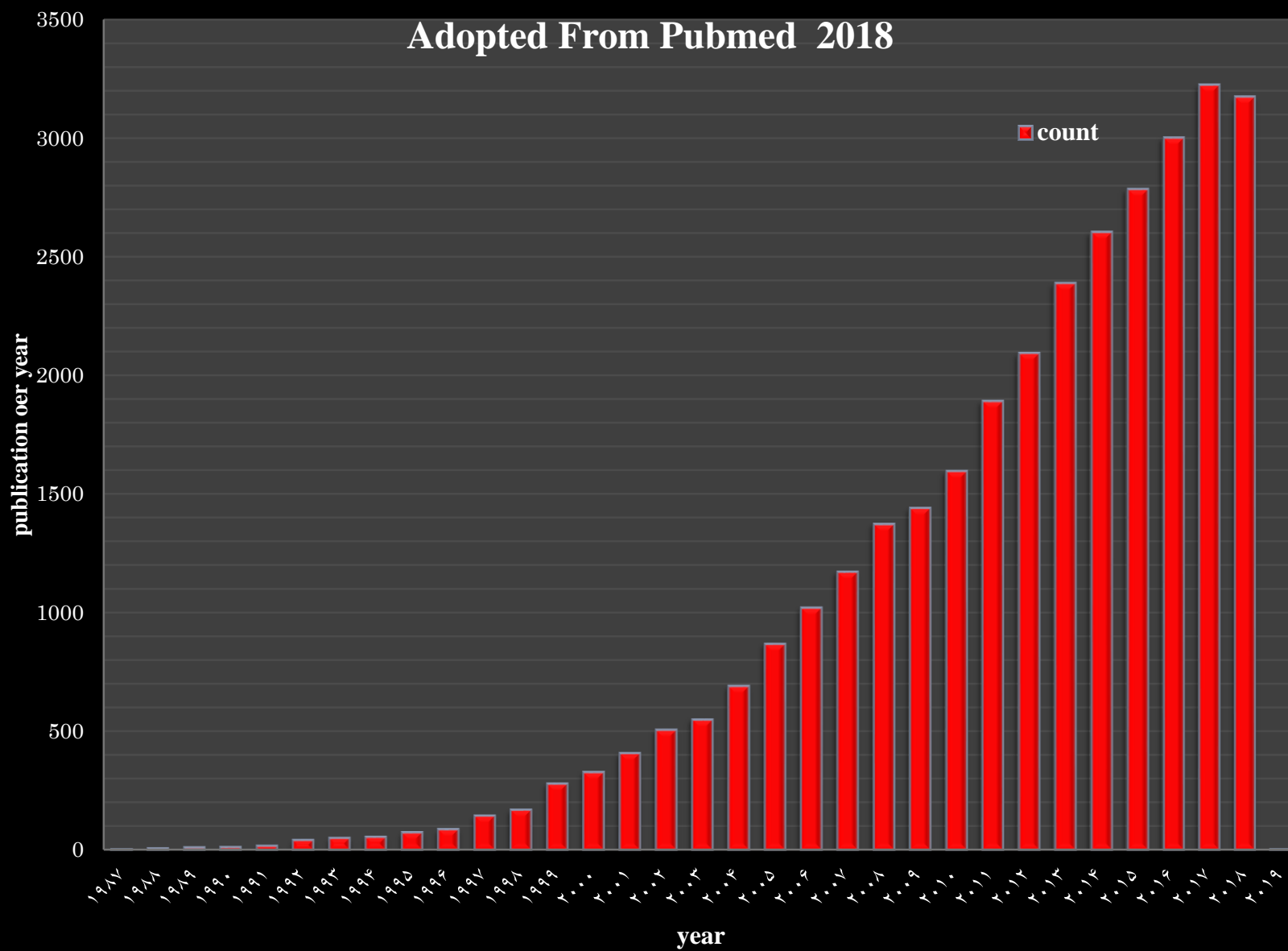
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Introduction

Introduction

“Wnt signal transduction” cascade consists of various proteins (14)

- **A family of cysteine-rich secreted glycoproteins.**
- **19 mammalian Wnt proteins have been identified to fall into 12 conserved Wnt subfamilies.**
- **Binding to 10 different Frizzled receptor and other co-receptors.**
- **Acylation (on cysteine residues 77 & 209) and N-glycosylation (on Asn103 and Asn414 residues) are **Wnt Post-translational modifications** that are accomplished by acyltransferase porcupine (located in ER).**

Introduction

Wnt signal transduction Roles

“Wnt signal transduction play roles in embryonic & adult stages in human and animals (8, 10 , 11, 17):

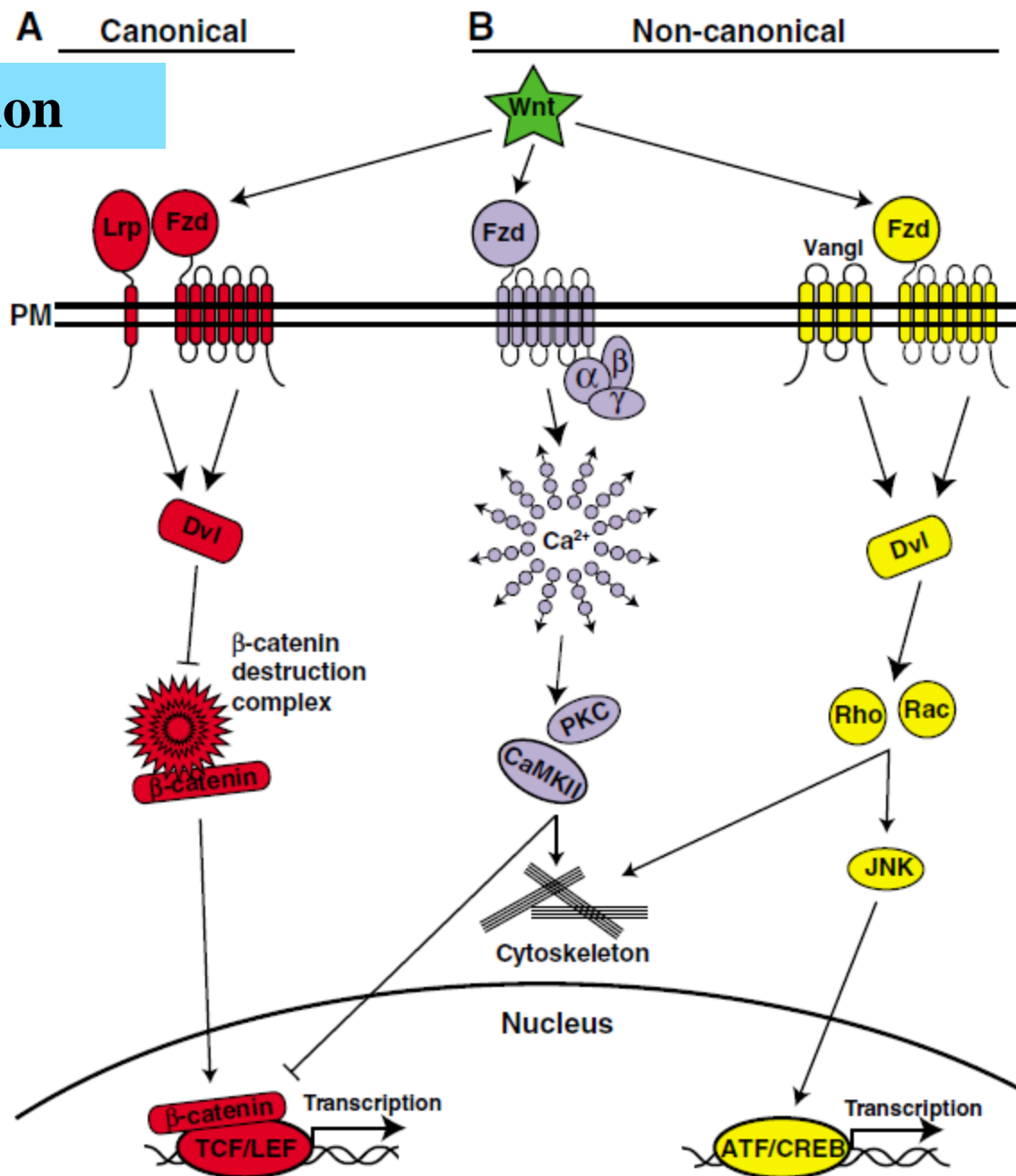
- Evolution**
- Cell proliferation, growth & differentiation**
- Cell survival, stem cell renewal & organ formation.**

- Wnt pathway components are “directional growth factor” (induce cell proliferation, and both primary formation & maintenance of tissue exact shape (8).**

Introduction

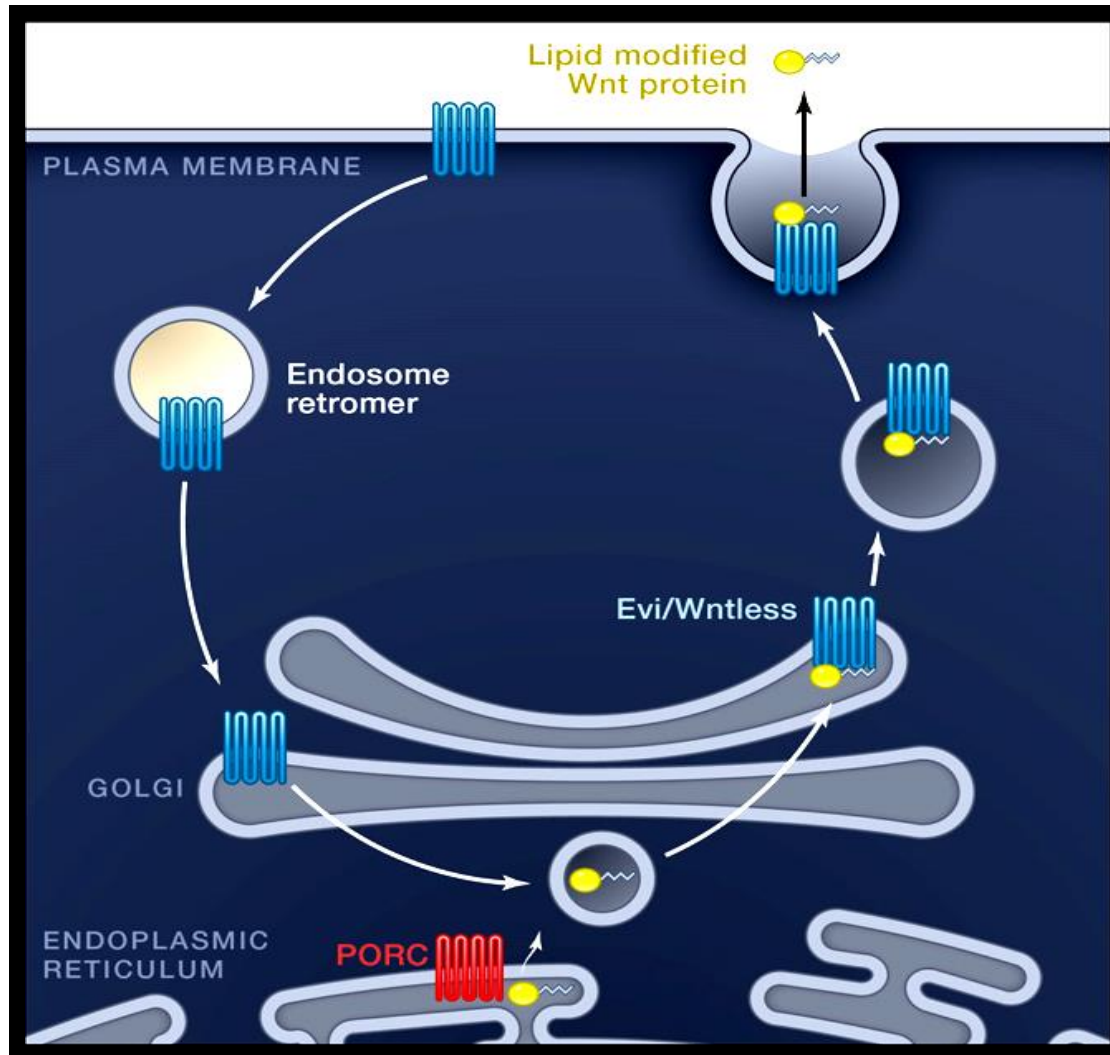
- Signal transduction 3 pathways:
 - 1. **Canonical** pathway
 - 2. Non-canonical planar **cell polarity** pathway
 - 3. Non-canonical **Wnt/calcium** pathway (8).
- Wnt pathway component **mutation** may be cause to some **pathological** conditions such as cancer (10).

Introduction



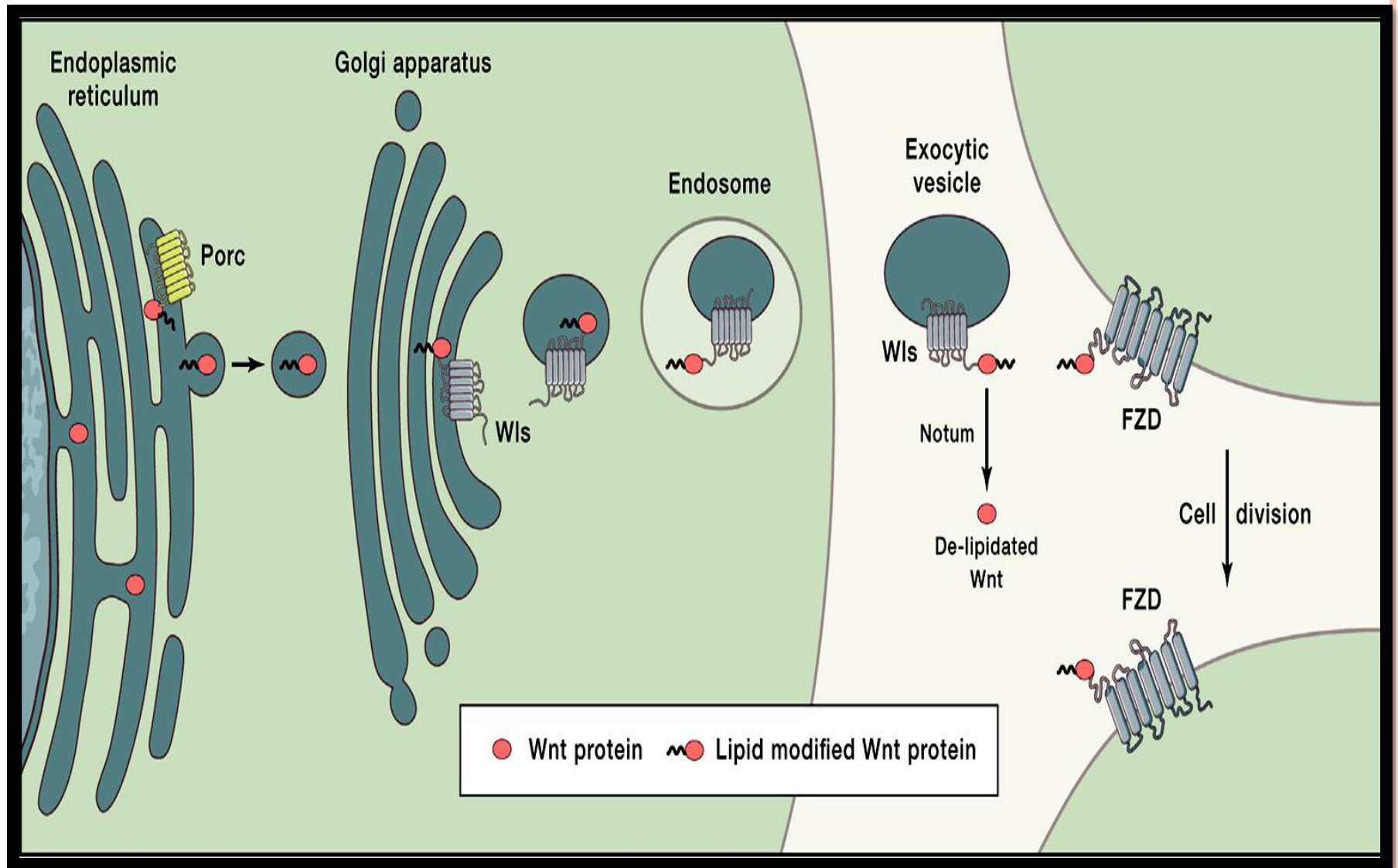
Introduction

The Wnt Secretion Machinery



Introduction

Model of Wnt Secretion



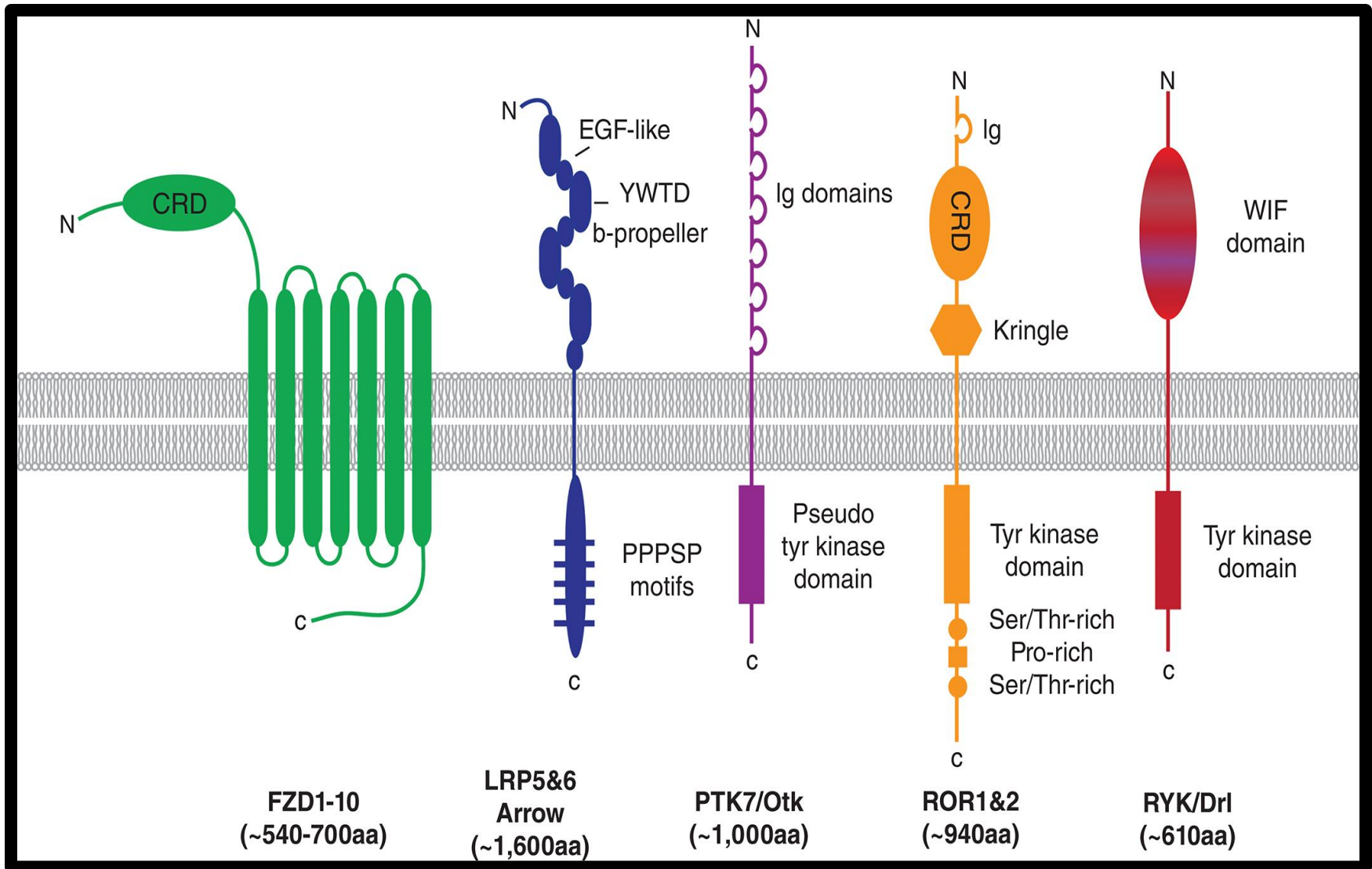
Introduction

Model of Wnt Secretion

- “Wnt” is a cysteine-rich 40kD protein, that is attached to a **palmitoleic acid** (an acyl group) before its secretion from cells.
- Wnt is acylated when it is inside the cell.
- This acyle group facilitates Wnt **passing through the cell membrane and binding to its receptors** (10)
- **Notum** enzyme (a deacylase) can remove acyl group and deactivate the Wnt. Deacylated Wnt can not attach to its receptor (10, 16).

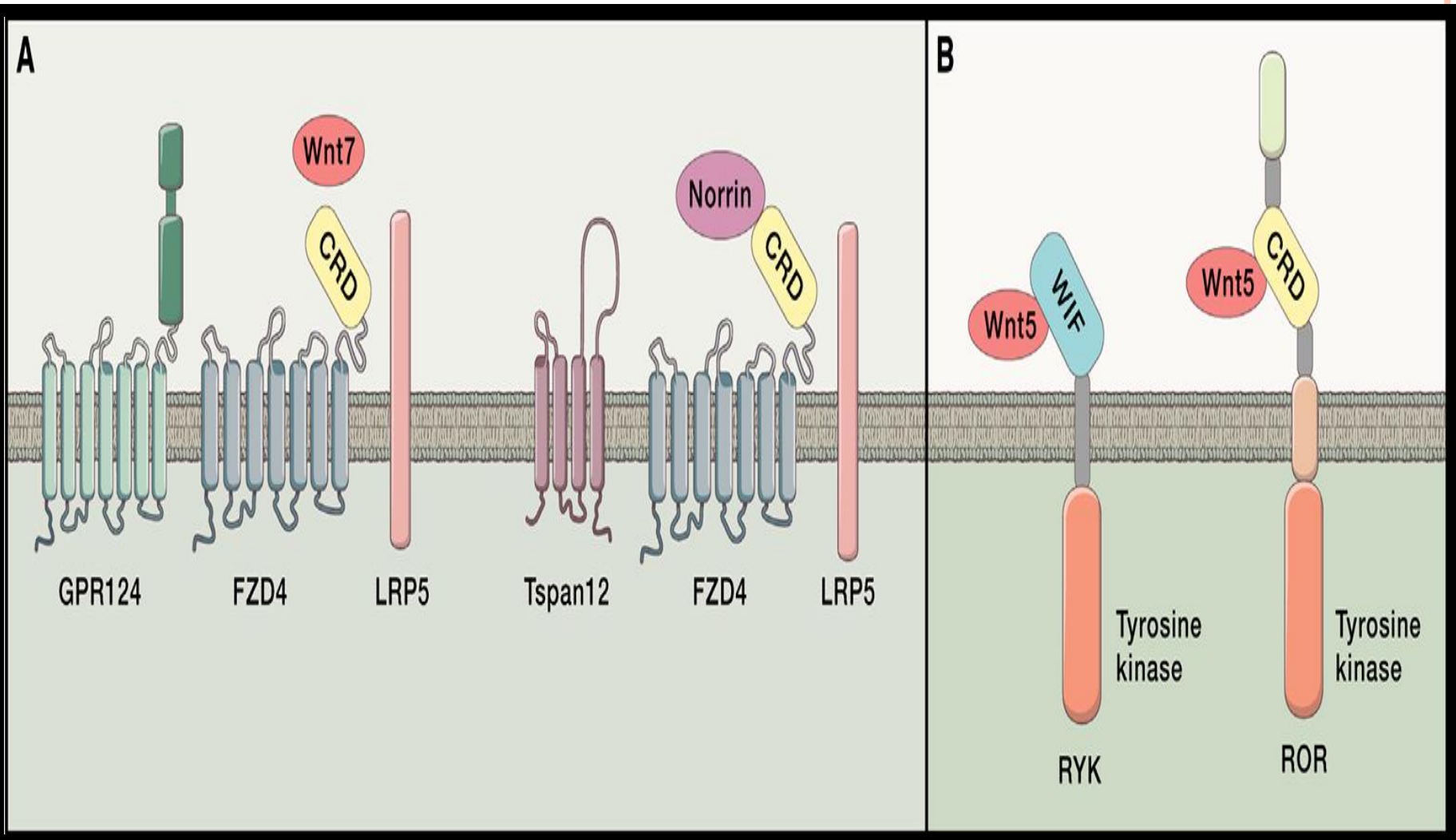
Introduction

Wnt Receptors



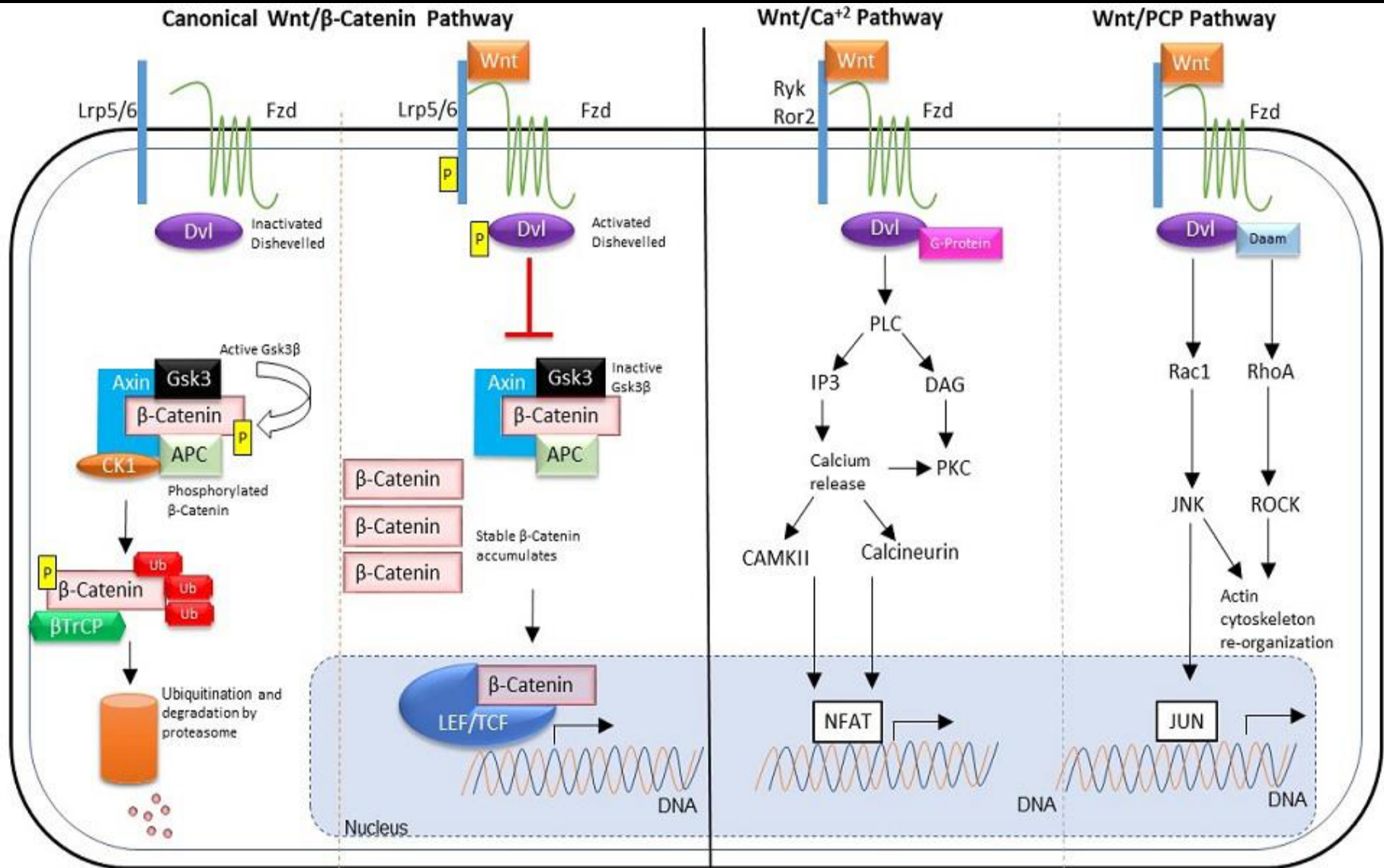
Introduction

Wnt Receptors

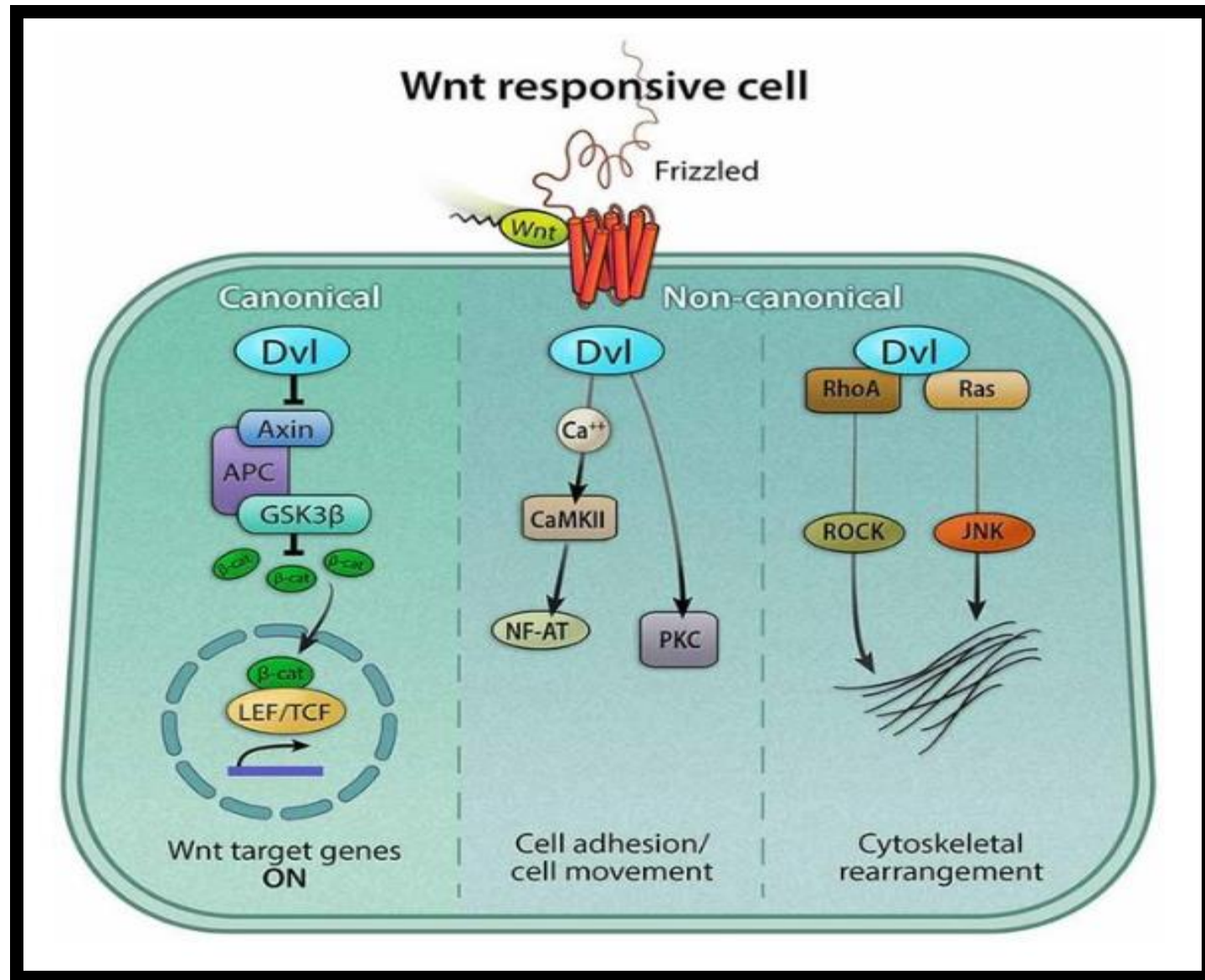


Wnt Signaling

Wnt Signaling

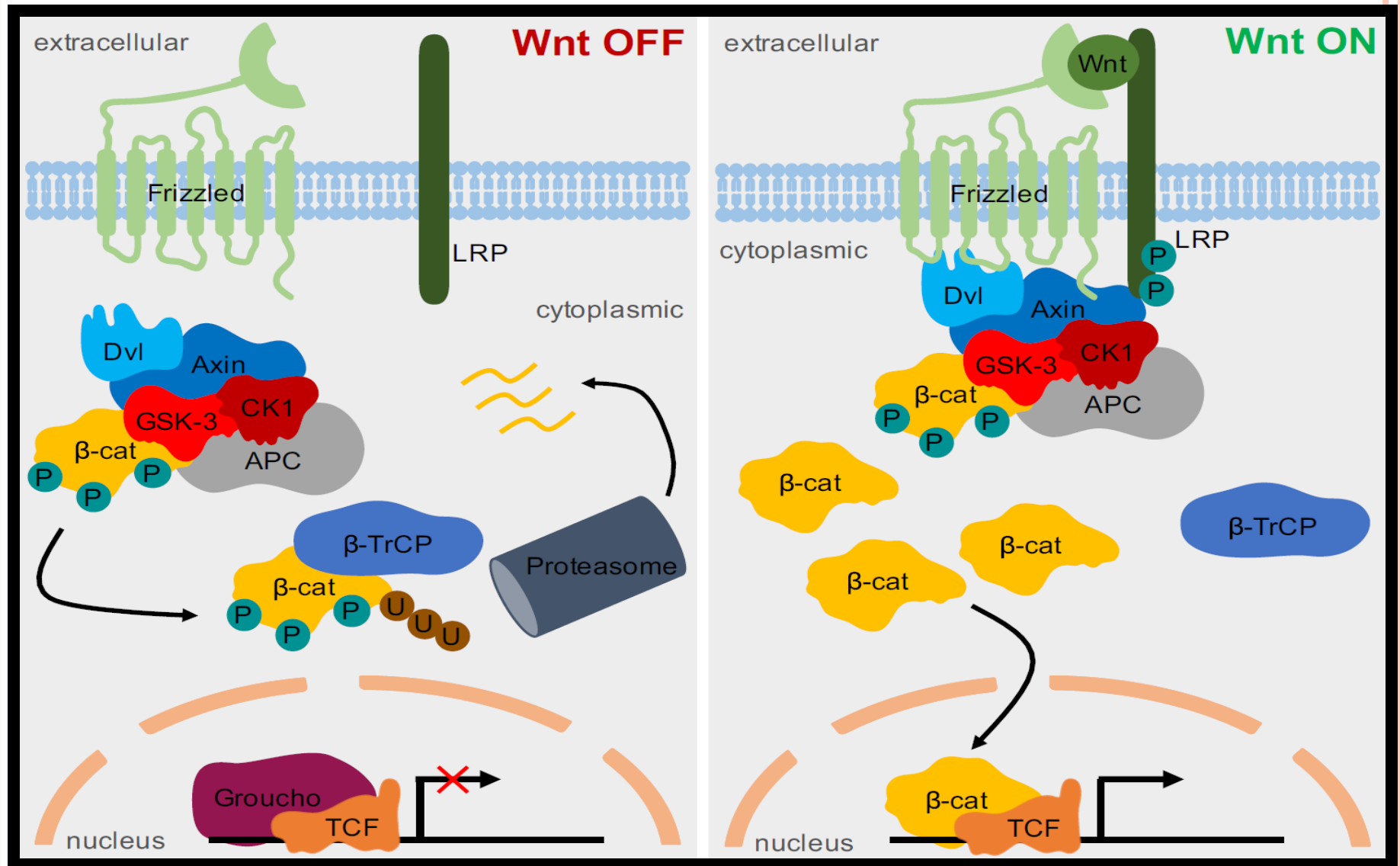


Wnt Signaling



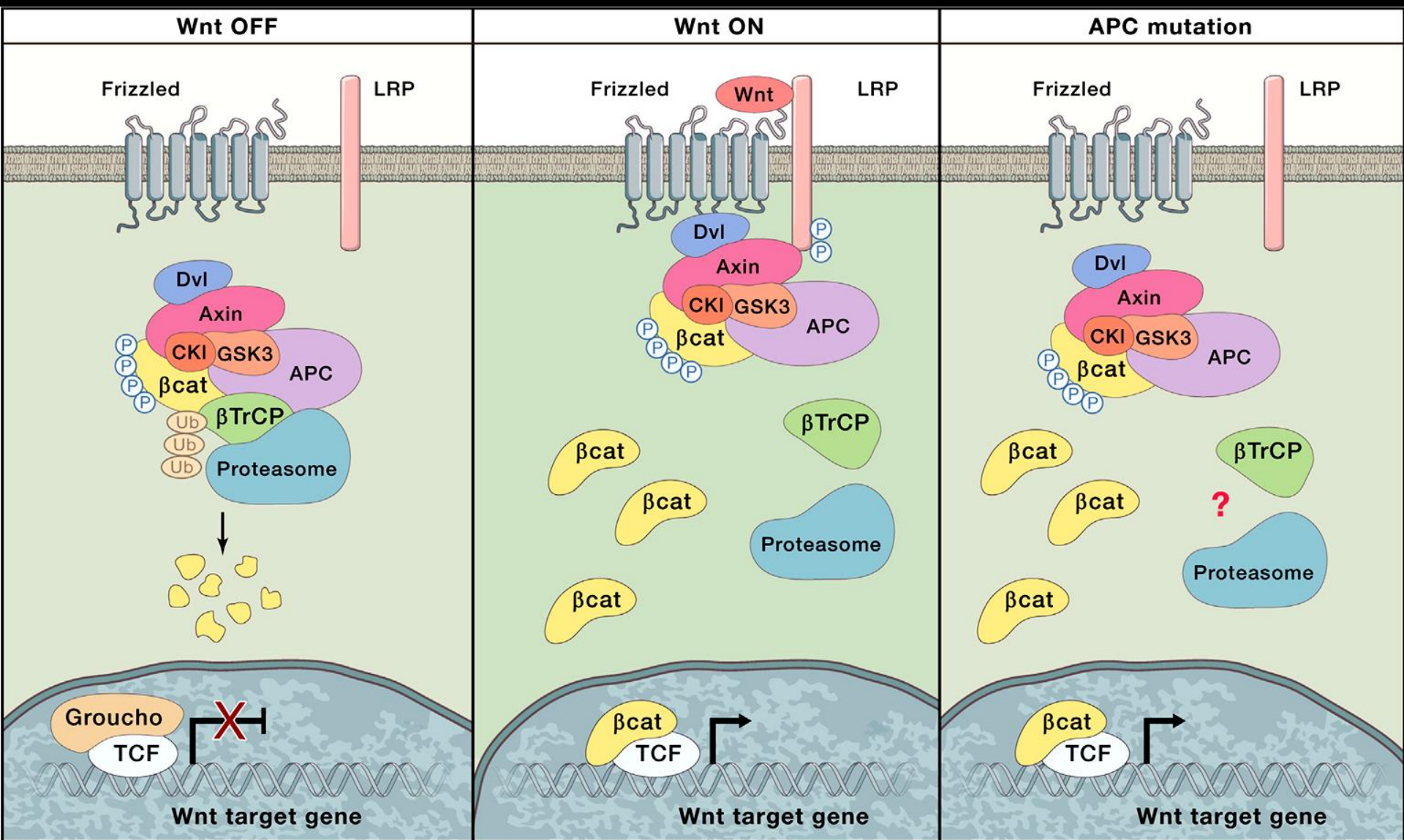
Wnt Signaling

Canonical Wnt signaling



Wnt Signaling

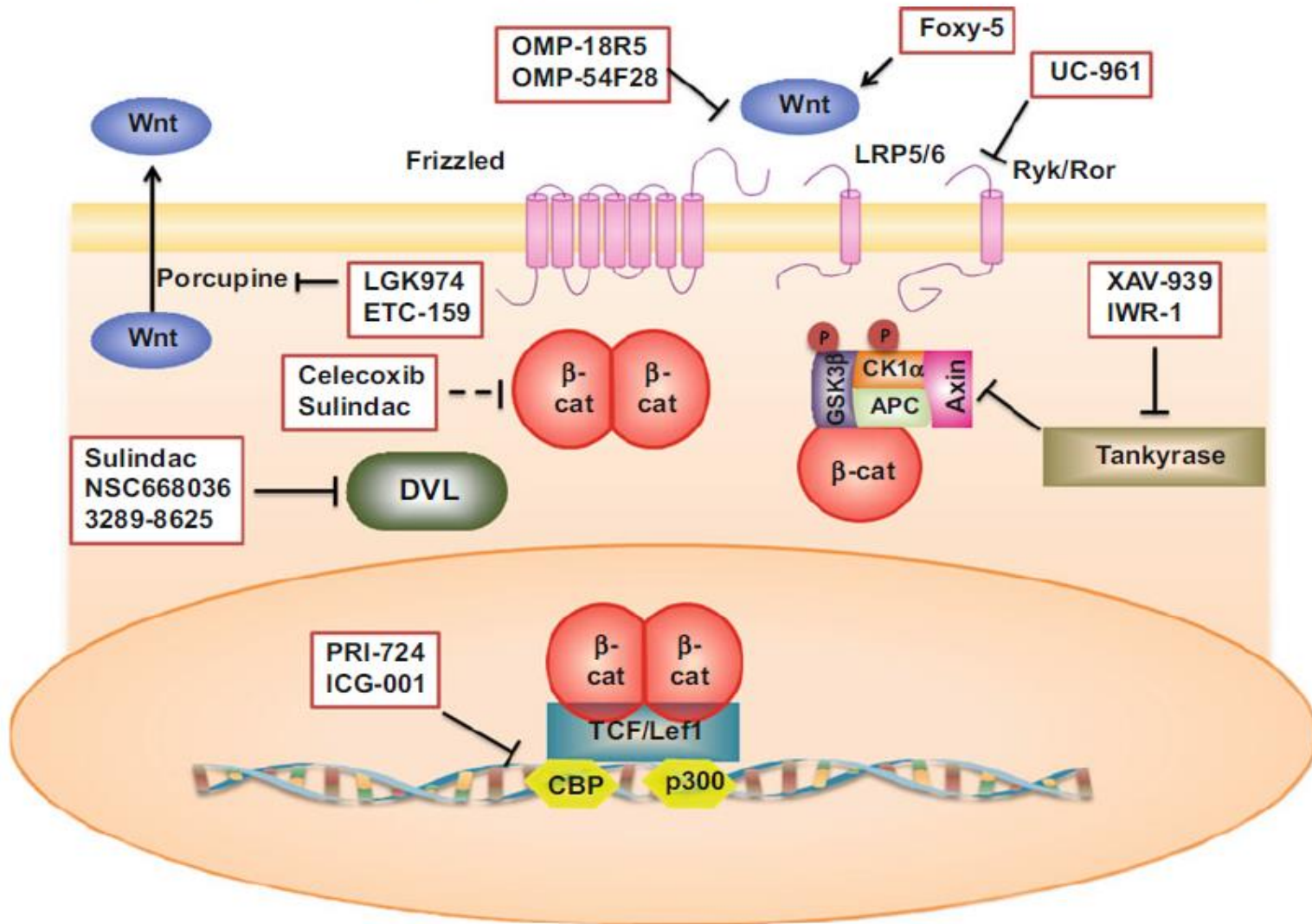
Wnt Signaling in Cells



Wnt Inhibition

Wnt Inhibition

Modulators of the Wnt signaling pathway



Wnt Inhibition

Small-Molecule to activate or inhibit Wnt signaling

Table 2. Small Molecules to Activate or Inhibit Wnt Signaling

Compound	Target	Inhibitor/Activator of the Target	Effect on Wnt Signaling	Reference
IWP	Porcupine	inhibitor	inhibits	Chen et al., 2009
LGK974	Porcupine	inhibitor	inhibits	Kulak et al., 2015
C59	Porcupine	inhibitor	inhibits	Proffitt et al., 2013
Apiculan and bafilomycin	vacuolar ATPase	inhibitor	inhibits	Cruciat et al., 2010
XAV939	tankyrase Axin	activates Axin	inhibits	Huang et al., 2009
IWR	tankyrase, Axin	activates Axin	inhibits	Kulak et al., 2015
G007-LK, G244-LM	tankyrase, Axin	activates Axin	inhibits	Lau et al., 2013
IQ1	PP2A	activator	activates	Miyabayashi et al., 2007
QS11	ARFGAP1	activator	activates	Zhang et al., 2007
SB-216763	GSK3	inhibitor	activates	Coghlan et al., 2000
CHIR99021	GSK3	inhibitor	activates	Ying et al., 2008
BIO (6-bromoindirubin-3'-oxime)	GSK3	inhibitor	activates	Sato et al., 2004
L807mts	GSK3	inhibitor	activates	Licht-Murava et al., 2016
LY2090314	GSK3	inhibitor	activates	Atkinson et al., 2015
ICG-001	CREB-binding protein	inhibitor	inhibits	Emami et al., 2004

Based on <http://web.stanford.edu/group/nusselab/cgi-bin/wnt/smallmolecules>.

Wnt Inhibition

Selected Wnt pathway inhibitors & their use in mouse tumor models

Compound name	Mode of action	Tested applications	Publications for <i>in vivo</i> inhibitor use if applicable
Lgk974	Inhibits Porcupine	Cell lines, div. murine cancer models, phase 1 clinical trial	Liu <i>et al.</i> , 2013 Clinical trial identifier: NCT01351103
ETC-159	Inhibits Porcupine	Rspo3 translocations in CRC xenografts	Madan <i>et al.</i> , 2016
Wnt-C59	Inhibits Porcupine	Cell lines, murine cancer models	Proffitt <i>et al.</i> , 2013
IWP-2	Inhibits Porcupine	Murine keratoacanthoma model, cell lines	Zito <i>et al.</i> , 2014
Xav939	Tankyrase 1 + 2	Cell lines, xenografts	Huang <i>et al.</i> , 2009, Arques <i>et al.</i> , 2016
ICG-001	Inhibits β -catenin- CBP interaction	Diverse murine tumour models	Emami <i>et al.</i> , 2004
PRI-724 (2nd generation of ICG- 001)	Inhibits β -catenin- CBP interaction	Clinical trial phase 1	Clinical trials identifier: NCT01764477, NCT01606579
OMP-18R5 (mAB)	Antibody against FZD receptors	Various xenograft models, clinical trial phase 1	Gurney <i>et al.</i> , 2012 Clinical trials identifiers: NCT01973309, NCT01345201
OMP-54F28 (Fzd8-Fc fusion)	Competes with FZDs for Wnts	Various xenograft models, clinical trial phase 1	Wei <i>et al.</i> 2011 Clinical trial identifier: NCT02092363
FJ9	Inhibits Dishevelled PDZ domain interaction with FZD	Cell lines, xenograft models	Fujii <i>et al.</i> 2007
SAH-BCL9	Inhibits Bcl9- β -catenin interaction	Cell lines, xenograft models	Takada <i>et al.</i> , 2012
1,4-Dibenzoylpiperazines	Inhibits Bcl9- β -catenin interaction	Cell lines	Wisniewski <i>et al.</i> , 2016

Wnt Inhibition

Wnt inhibitors currently in clinical trials

Clinical trials	Disease	Mechanism	Ref
OMP18R5, Vantictumab	Solid tumors	Humanized Ab against multiple Fzd receptors	[74]
OMP-54F28, Fzd8-Fc	Pancreatic, Ovarian, Hepatocellular, Colorectal, and Breast	Fc fusion protein with Fzd8, which binds all Wnt ligands	[75]
PRI-724	Solid Tumors, Colon and Pancreatic Cancer, CML and AML	Small molecule inhibitor of CBP/ catenin binding	[76]
LGK974, Porcupine inhibitor	Melanoma, Breast cancer, and Pancreatic adenocarcinoma	Wnt posttranslational acylation and palmitoylation	[77]
ETC-1922159 (ETC-159), Porcupine inhibitor	Colon, Ovarian, and Pancreas cancers	Wnt posttranslational acylation and palmitoylation	[78]
UC-961 (cirmtuzumab)	Chronic Lymphoid Leukemia	Humanized antibody against ROR1	[79]
Foxy-5	Breast, Colon, Prostate	Reduced cell migration through Fzd-5 and cytosolic calcium signal	[80]

This table summarizes the different Wnt pathway modulators with variable specificities and at different stages of development (fully described in the main text)

Wnt & Related Diseases

Status of Wnt Pathway Drug Discovery Approaches

	Institution	Drug Type	Target	Stage
Wnt/receptor interactions	Genentech	Soluble Receptor Biologic	Wnt ligands	Discovery
	UCSF	Antibody	Wnt1, Wnt2	Discovery
	OncoMed	Antibody	Fzds	Phase I 2011
Cytosolic Signaling	St. Jude Children's Res. Hospital	Small Molecule	Dvl	Discovery
	Novartis	Small Molecule	Tankyrase 1,2	Discovery
	UTSW	Small Molecule	Axin	Discovery
	UTSW	Small Molecule	Porcupine	Discovery
	Theriac Pharmaceutical	Small Molecule	β -catenin	Phase I 2010
	Fate Therapeutics	Small Molecule	Unknown	Phase I
Nuclear Signaling	Harvard/Novartis	Small Molecule	TCF/ β -catenin	Discovery
	USC	Small Molecule	CBP	Discovery

Wnt Inhibition

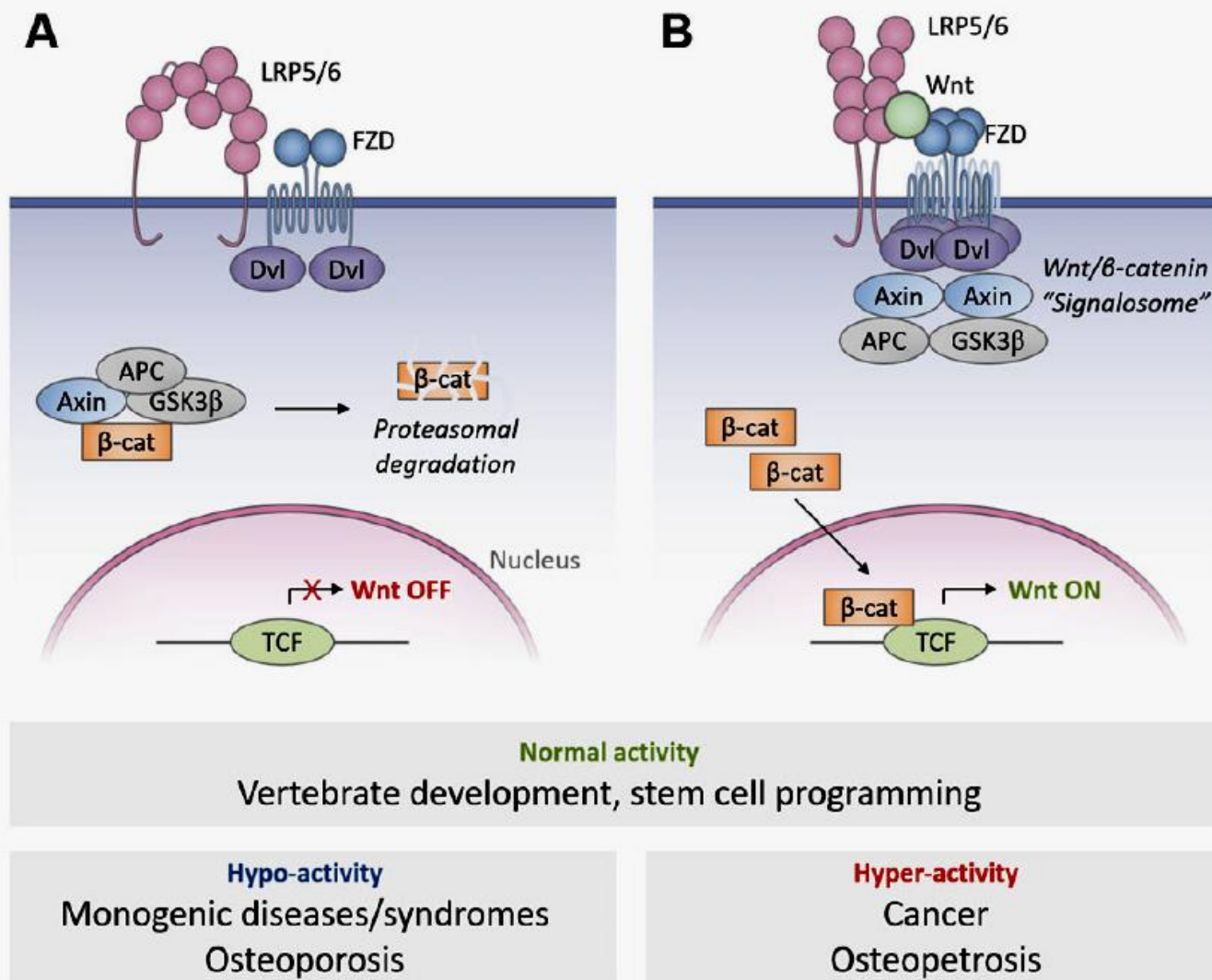
Wnt inhibitors clinically approved

Clinical	Disease	Mechanism	Ref
NSAID (Aspirin, Celecoxib)		PGE2 generated via COX suppresses β -catenin degradation	[66–69]
Retinoids	APML	Unclear	[99]
Vitamin D	Colorectal and breast cancers	Unclear	[70]
Pyriminidyl pamoate	Lung cancer, colon cancer	Unclear: Wnt signaling inhibition via $CK1\alpha$ activation or GSK3 activation	[72]
Sulindac		Dishevelled inhibition	[73]

This table presents the nonspecific Wnt inhibitors that are already clinically approved. The mechanism of action of these drugs (when it is known) involves the inhibition of different intracellular proteins implicated in the Wnt signaling pathway (β -catenin, $CK1\alpha$, GSK3 β , and Dvl)

Wnt & Related Diseases

Wnt & Related Diseases



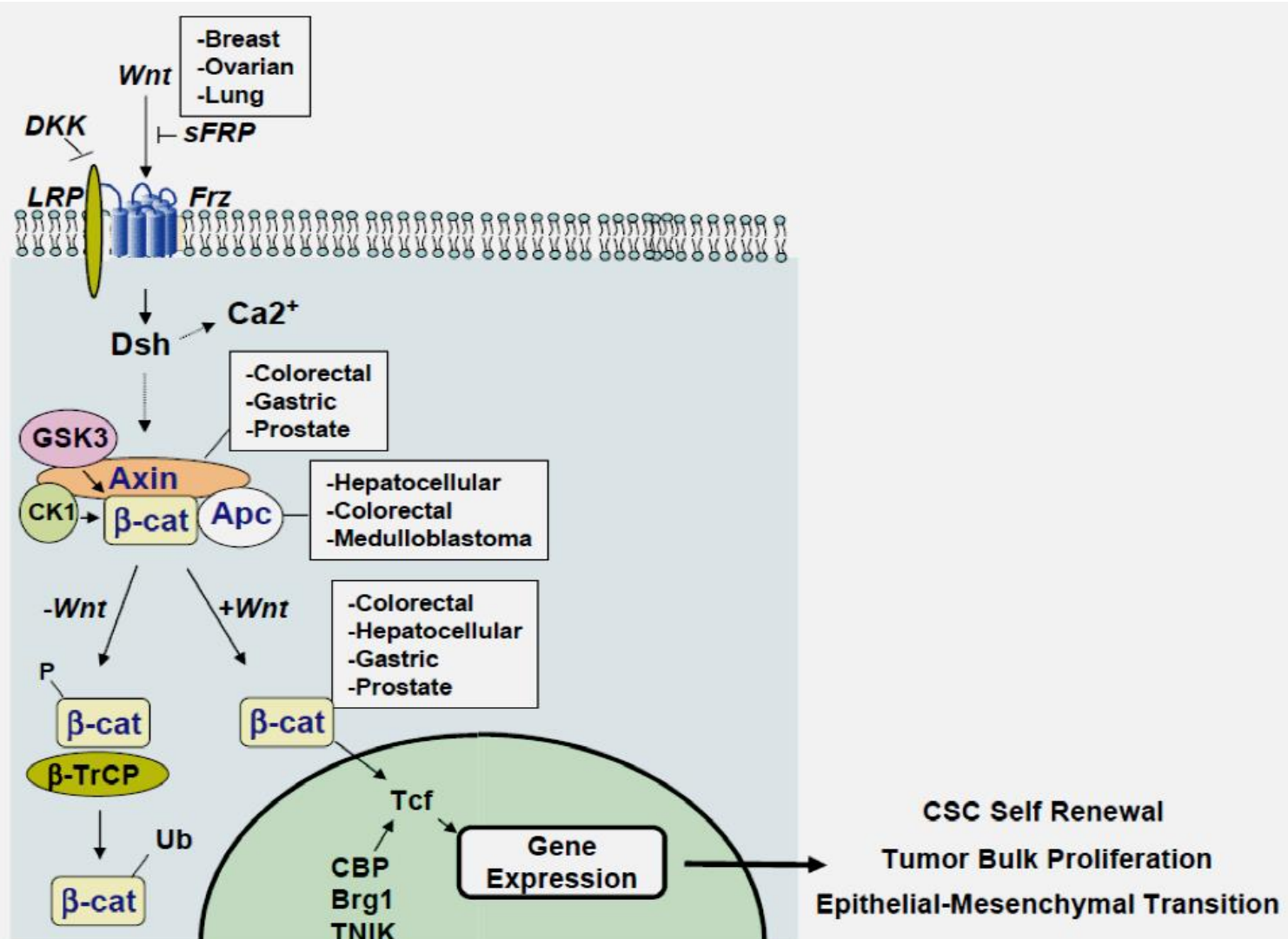
Wnt is one of the “cancer-related signaling pathways” which its abnormal expression was observed in many cancers such as (11,8)

- Lung
- Breast
- Ovarian
- hematopoietic malignancies
- Especially **hepatocellular** carcinoma & (**colorectal**(18,19)) cancer.

- **Wnt1** is a sign of tumor metastasis(11).
- **Wnt3a** over-expression relates with MMP-9 level in colorectal cancer (11).
& by decrease in β -catenin acetylation & increase the cytosolic β -catenin can increase the MCF-7 cells proliferation (11,12).
- Wnt signaling can play roles in cancer stem cell (**CSCs**) activities → drug resistance & cancer metastasis in various cancers (colon, breast and cutaneous) (12).

Wnt & Related Diseases

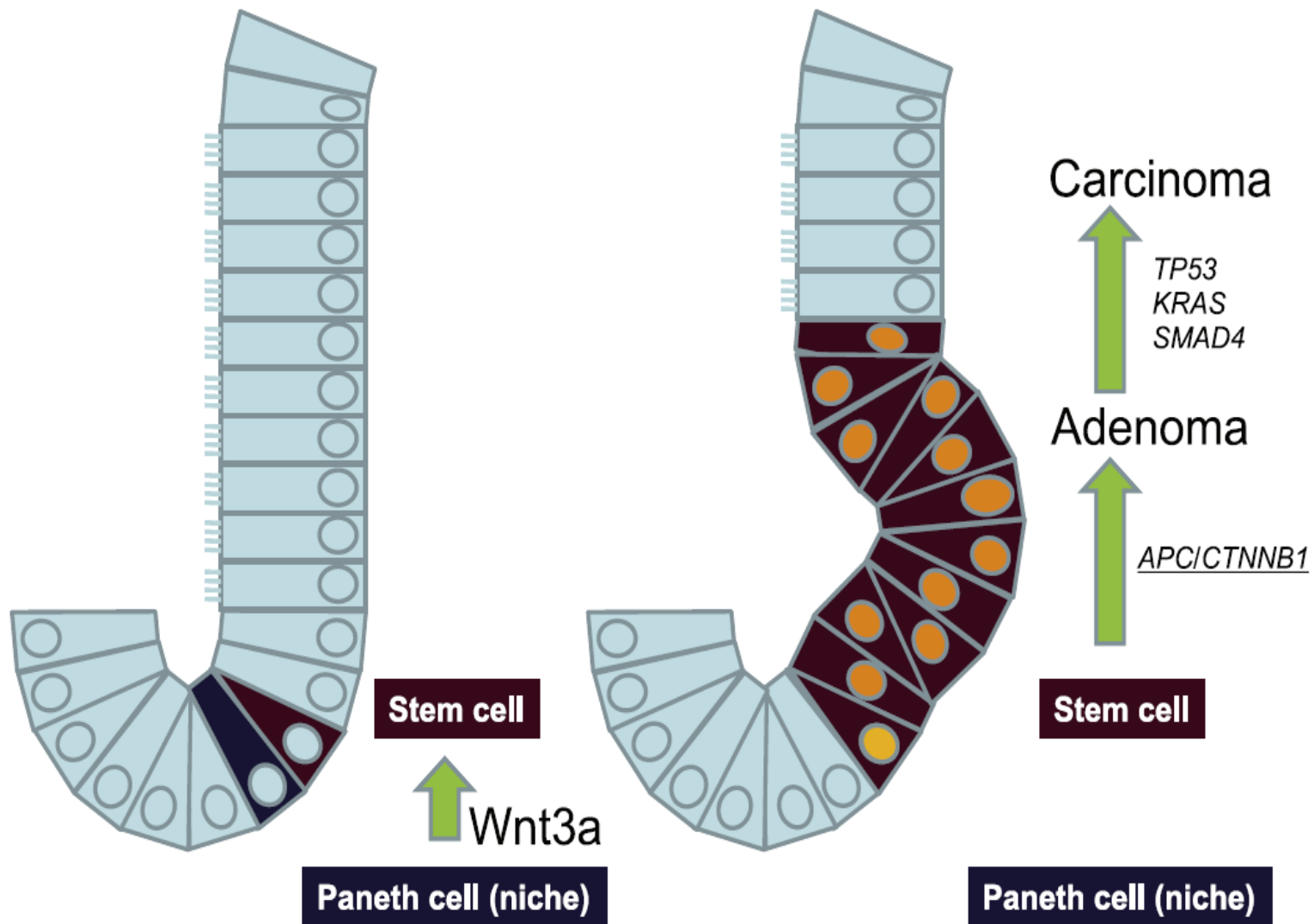
Canonical Wnt signaling and dysregulation in cancer.



Wnt & Related Diseases

- **More than 90% of colorectal cancers occurred because of at least one mutation in Wnt signaling pathway genes.**
- **Wnt3 can increase stem cells number in normal intestinal epithelial tissue.**
- **In colorectal cancer, APC or CTNNB1 mutation → Wnt signaling activation → intestinal epithelial stem cell transformation into adenoma → carcinoma (via some other genes alterations such as SMAD4, KRAS, and TP53 genes).**
- **Other Wnt signaling pathway genes which altered in colorectal cancer are: FZD10, T-cell factors-3 and -4 (TCF3/4) (TCF7L1/2), axis inhibitor 2 (AXIN2) (13).**

Wnt & Related Diseases



Wnt & Related Diseases

Table 1. Diseases Associated with Wnt Signaling Components

Disease	Gene	Reference
Bone density defects	LRP5	Gong et al., 2001; Little et al., 2002; Boyden et al., 2002
	LGR4	Styrkarsdottir et al., 2013
	SOST	Brunkow et al., 2001; Balemans et al., 2001
	WNT16	Zheng et al., 2012
	WNT1	Pyott et al., 2013
	WTX	Jenkins et al., 2009
Familial exudative vitreoretinopathy	LRP5	Toomes et al., 2004
	FZD4	Robitaille et al., 2002
	Norrin	Xu et al., 2004
	TSPAN12	Poulter et al., 2010
Robinow syndrome	WNT5A	Person et al., 2010
	DVL1	White et al., 2015
	ROR2	van Bokhoven et al., 2000
Tooth development defects	LRP6	Massink et al., 2015
	WNT10A	Adaimy et al., 2007
	WNT10B	Yu et al., 2016
	AXIN2	Lammi et al., 2004

Based on http://web.stanford.edu/group/nusselab/cgi-bin/wnt/human_genetic_diseases (selected for diseases with multiple pathway components implicated).

Table 1. Human diseases related with the Wnt/ β -catenin signaling pathway

Disease	Wnt/ β -catenin signaling pathway component	Reference
Cancer	APC	18, 19
	β -catenin	15, 18
	axin1	20, 21
	axin2	22
FAP	APC	16, 17
Tooth agenesis	axin2	23
Bone disease (high or low bone mass)	LRP 5	33 – 37
OPPG	LRP 5	33
FEVR	LRP 5	38, 39
Vascular calcification	unknown	45
Cardiac hypertrophy	GSK-3 β	50 – 52

APC, adenomatous polyposis coli; FAP, familial adenomatous polyposis; LRP, low-density lipoprotein receptor-related protein; OPPG, osteoporosis-pseudoglioma syndrome; FEVR, familial exudative vitreoretinopathy; GSK-3 β , glycogen synthase kinase-3 β .



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Research Paper

A Small Molecule Inhibitor of the β -Catenin-TCF4 Interaction Suppresses Colorectal Cancer Growth *In Vitro* and *In Vivo*



Seung Ho Shin^{a,b}, Do Young Lim^a, Kanamata Reddy^a, Margarita Malakhova^a, Fangfang Liu^{c,d}, Ting Wang^c, Mengqiu Song^{c,d}, Hanyong Chen^a, Ki Beom Bae^a, Joohyun Ryu^a, Kangdong Liu^{c,d,e,f}, Mee-Hyun Lee^c, Ann M. Bode^{a,b}, Zigang Dong^{a,b,c,d,e,f,*}

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ABSTRACT

Colorectal cancer is associated with aberrant activation of the Wnt pathway. β -Catenin plays essential roles in the Wnt pathway by interacting with T-cell factor 4 (TCF4) to transcribe oncogenes. We synthesized a small molecule, referred to as HI-B1, and evaluated signaling changes and biological consequences induced by the compound. HI-B1 inhibited β -catenin/TCF4 luciferase activity and preferentially caused apoptosis of cancer cells in which the survival is dependent on β -catenin. The formation of the β -catenin/TCF4 complex was disrupted by HI-B1 due to the direct interaction of HI-B1 with β -catenin. Colon cancer patient-derived xenograft (PDX) studies showed that a tumor with higher levels of β -catenin expression was more sensitive to HI-B1 treatment, compared to a tumor with lower expression levels of β -catenin. The different sensitivities of PDX tumors to HI-B1 were dependent on the β -catenin expression level and potentially could be further exploited for biomarker development and therapeutic applications against colon cancer.

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- They synthesized a small molecule, referred to as HI-B1 with inhibitory effect against β -catenin/TCF4 interaction in colon cancer cells.
- HI-B1 : causes apoptosis of cancer cells in which the survival is dependent on β -catenin.

Synthesis of 4-(5-Fluoro-1H-Benzo[d]Imidazol-2-yl)-N, Ndimethylaniline (HI-B1):

- To a solution of 4-(Dimethylamino) benzaldehyde in ethanol, Sodium dithionite in water was added.
- The resulting mixture was stirred at room temperature for 20 min
- then 4-Fluoro-1,2-phenylenediamine was added.
- after 14 h The solution was diluted with water.
- The obtained brown precipitate was filtered and purified from ethanol to give 2.5 g of 4-(5-fluoro-1H-benzo[d]imidazol-2-yl)-N, N-dimethylaniline .

- **Luciferase Assay, MTS Assay, Flow Cytometry for Analysis of Apoptosis, 7-Day Proliferation Assay, Quantitative PCR (qRT-PCR), Protein Purification, Immunohistochemistry.**
- **β -catenin is a direct target protein of HI-B1. HI-B1 disrupts the interaction between β -catenin and TCF4 in vitro and ex vivo.**
- **HI-B1 inhibits the growth of tumors with a high expression level of β -catenin, but was not effective against tumors with a low level of β -catenin.**

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Thank
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